

doors of opportunity for her students every day—even before they begin high school. She plans to spend a year of service as an Arizona Teacher of the Year continuing her mission of getting more of our students involved in STEM and making the field more inclusive and representative of our ever diverse and vibrant community.

I am beyond proud to honor Mrs. Parra-Quinlan for her remarkable service and astounding legacy at Kino Junior High School. Mrs. Parra-Quinlan cares deeply about her work, students, coworkers, and our state. She chose to become a teacher to inspire the next generation and change the lives of her students—and we are all grateful for her work as a teacher, role model, and mentor. I wish her and her students the very best as she continues to innovate, inspire, and shape a promising future for the STEM field, and the state of Arizona.

HONORING JOHN KARRAS AS  
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the co-founder of RAGBRAI John Karras as Iowan of the Week. RAGBRAI is the world's oldest, largest, and longest recreational bicycling tour event, and it is a beloved Iowa tradition. John, who was a feature writer for the Des Moines Register, took his first ride across Iowa with some friends in 1973. They chronicled their journey, and that trip sparked the inspiration for what is now known as RAGBRAI—an acronym for the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

John died on November 10, 2021, but the bicycle ride he helped create will continue in Iowa in 2022 and for many more years. RAGBRAI attracts 15,000 people to Iowa every summer, and allows visitors to see the state's beautiful cities, towns, counties, and countryside while riding their bikes an average of 468 miles between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

RAGBRAI generates more than \$364.8 million annually for the State of Iowa. The week-long event also brings in nearly \$25 million in direct spending, which means towns that are lucky enough to have RAGBRAI ride through see upwards of \$3 million a day in tourism spending. That money means so much to the Iowa towns that host RAGBRAI each year, and to the vendors that help support the bicycle ride.

The ride does more than raise money for our great state. It brings bicyclists from all over Iowa, the nation, and the world together to share their love of their favorite sport and pastime. It has created friendly rivalries between news organizations as they compete to see who can eat pies the fastest, and good laughs for everyone as the bicyclists have come up with some memorably humorous team names throughout the years.

I've had the pleasure of riding RAGBRAI and can honestly say there's no experience quite like it. I loved spending time in rural areas along the route, meeting Iowans and out-of-state riders to hear their stories, and the

physical challenge of a cross-state ride. You have to push yourself through the unpredictable weather of an Iowa summer and the hilly landscape, but you're rewarded with seeing and experiencing the state's beauty from a unique perspective. RAGBRAI is a great way to connect with family, friends, and strangers alike while making memories that last a lifetime. John leaves a lasting legacy through the creation of this iconic event.

John certainly didn't know what RAGBRAI would grow into when he took his first bicycle ride across the state, but I am so thankful he went out anyway and tried something new. Iowa summers would not be the same without this phenomenal tradition and John will be missed by everyone who knows and loves RAGBRAI. It is my pleasure to honor John Karras as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY  
OF MIRIAM KELLER SIEFKEN

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of Miriam Keller Siefken. Born on December 2, 1921, Mrs. Siefken grew up in Abington, Pennsylvania and was a graduate of Abington High School. She then raised her three children, Barbara, Edward and Larry with her late husband, Edward A. Siefken. Edward was a United States Army Veteran and served in the 9th Armored Division and the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion. He also served at the Battle of the Bulge and Remagen Bridge and attained the rank of Sergeant. Together they raised a wonderful family. She is a proud grandmother of four as well as a great grandmother of three.

Today, our community is celebrating Mrs. Siefken's birthday at Neshaminy Manor. We wish her well in the upcoming year and for many years to come. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing a Happy Birthday to Mrs. Siefken and a profound thank you for her contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. LARRY J. MILLER'S RETIREMENT FROM  
PEOPLESBANK UPON HIS 50  
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Larry J. Miller's retirement upon his 50 years of dedication and service to PeoplesBank, a Codorus Valley Company and its community. On December 31, 2021, Mr. Miller will retire from the Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc. Board of Directors, the parent company of PeoplesBank.

On March 1, 1971, Larry joined PeoplesBank (then known as Peoples Bank of Glen Rock) as a management trainee. He was the youngest person to serve as a bank president in Pennsylvania when he became President of the bank at age 30 in 1981. He served

in that role until 2016. In addition, he has served as director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc. from 1986 to October 1, 2021. His 50 years of service to PeoplesBank, the community and the banking industry has been nothing short of remarkable.

When Larry Miller was hired, the bank had three branch locations and managed \$23 million in assets. During his tenure, the bank's assets grew to over \$2 billion. He led PeoplesBank's growth to become the largest bank with headquarters in York County. As CEO, he led the opening of 25, the relocation of four, the combining of one and the closure of three locations. In addition, he oversaw the purchase of two insurance companies, the creation of the mortgage and trust divisions, the development of corporate and administrative centers and the acquisition of four branch banks in Maryland. Fourteen limited-service facilities were also opened throughout his tenure.

His dedication to and impact on York County is evident through his active involvement in the community, as he serves on various non-profit boards of directors in leadership capacities. Throughout his tenure, he has served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the United Way of York County, the York County Economic Development Corporation, YorkCounts, the Cultural Alliance of York County, and Wellspan Heath System.

Larry has been honored for his achievements and contributions through several recognition awards, including the York County Economic Alliance's Business Achievement Award, the Southern School District Foundation's distinguished Leader Award, the 2021 Distinguished Humanitarian Award Honoree by Penn-Mar Human Services, and his induction into the Central Penn Business Hall of Fame.

I am proud to honor Mr. Larry J. Miller and recognize his important contributions to our communities throughout his five decades of leadership in York County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish him God's many blessings as he embarks upon his next adventure.

REMEMBERING FLOYD NESSE, A  
LIFELONG ADVOCATE FOR NEW  
JERSEY'S DISABILITY COMMUNITY

**HON. MIKE SHERRILL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Floyd Nesse for his lifelong service to individuals with disabilities in NJ-11 and beyond.

Mr. Nesse organized efforts throughout New Jersey to reduce barriers and broaden protections for people with disabilities. He was particularly committed to expanding access to fulfilling and accommodating employment opportunities. He brought the concerns of the disability community to the attention of the federal government, traveling down here to our nation's capital to advocate for legislation to improve the quality of life for those with disabilities.

Mr. Nesse was deeply admired by his peers and was known for working both

empathetically and effectively. He was recognized for his service in 2019 and was awarded the Unsung Hero Award from Inroads to Opportunities and the Larry Barker Spirit of State Use Award from the State Use Programs Association.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Nesse served as the Executive Director of the Edison Sheltered Workshop, the President and CEO of the Center for Vocational Rehabilitation, and most recently as the Vice President of Government Affairs for ACCSES New Jersey.

Beyond his advocacy, Mr. Nesse was a caring husband, father, and grandfather, finding great joy in spending time with his family. He was also a man of deep faith, and on Sundays, you could find him with a guitar in hand leading the worship team at his local congregation.

Floyd Nesse passed away on October 19, 2021. His legacy will live on in his family and in the lives of all he served. I am grateful for all Mr. Nesse did to ensure we live in more inclusive communities. He will be dearly missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed one vote on December 1, 2021.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 390.

#### HONORING SYDNEY NOEL BURKS

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious young lady, Sydney Noel Burks.

Sydney is a Sophomore at Hinds Community College-Utica Campus majoring in Chemistry/Pre-Pharmacy. She was a May 2020 graduate of Park Place Christian Academy (PPCA), where she graduated as a Highest Honor graduate with a 4.0 GPA. During her time at PPCA, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and served as Secretary of the Beta Club.

Sydney also believes in giving back to the community and helping those who are less fortunate. Her service and leadership have not only given her experiences she will cherish for a lifetime but has also enabled her to become an advocate for others and to promote issues that are of importance. Some of the community service events she was involved in during high school and continue to be involved includes the following:

We Will Go—Organized community closet and assisted the neighbors with bagging groceries and clothing and picked up trash and debris around the city;

Stewpot—Assisted with packing and serving lunches;

Feed the Need—Worked as a team member to pack and bag food to later be shipped to those who are food insecure;

Feed the Hungry—Talked to, prayed with, and assisted with serving lunch to those who were hungry in Poindexter Park;

Operation Christmas Child (Shoebbox Processing Center in Texas)—Worked with a team to pack shoeboxes and ensure that the items in the shoeboxes met the safety requirements to be shipped to the children who needed them; and

The Little Lighthouse—Worked with special needs children by assisting teachers with primary lessons, feeding the children lunch, and supervising recess. Also assisted with creating 'Thank You' cards for their 5K race.

During Sydney's tenure at Hinds Community College-Utica Campus, she has maintained a cumulative 4.0 grade point average, and has been named a President's Scholar. She is currently a member of the Yearbook and Robotics Clubs. Sydney is a STEM student and is a member of the Louis Stokes Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation. In addition, Sydney is a Mississippi INBRE (Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) Scholar. Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) is a network of colleges and universities, designed to build a biomedical research infrastructure in Mississippi. The mission is to reach out to Mississippians in order to improve health throughout the state and to engage talented researchers and students in biomedical research projects that will increase the state's research competitiveness as well as impact the health of citizens of Mississippi.

As an INBRE scholar, she had the opportunity to be an intern with My Brother's Keeper. She presented the outcomes of her work entitled, "Potential Mistrust of the COVID-19 Vaccine Among African-Americans in Mississippi," during the Mississippi Health Disparities Annual Conference 2021 in Biloxi, MS. Also, she is the Mississippi-Louisiana Vice-President of Phi Theta Kappa International College Honor Society. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) recognizes the academic achievement of college students and provides opportunities for its members to grow as scholars and leaders.

Recently, Sydney was named as one of the Historically Black College and University Scholars.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sydney Noel Burks for the outstanding work and accomplishments she has made thus far.

#### HONORING OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR PAUL NEWTON

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina Senator Paul Newton for his recognition as Outstanding Ambassador of the Year by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Outstanding Ambassador of the Year is presented by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau to an individual who represents Cabarrus County by providing exceptional service to visitors. Working in coordina-

tion with the North Carolina Travel Industry Association, Senator Newton's leadership effectuated the inclusion of a specific provision in House Bill 196 that makes tourism development authorities in North Carolina eligible for the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This quick and impactful response to the economic struggles brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic has effectively reduced layoffs and allowed businesses in the hospitality and tourism industries to remain economically stable so they may continue providing services to visitors and all members of their communities.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Senator Newton for his exemplary service to the tourism and hospitality industries in Cabarrus County and North Carolina as a whole. It is an honor and a privilege to serve and represent the people of Cabarrus County by his side. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Senator Paul Newton as the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau Outstanding Ambassador of the Year Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to address the needs of his constituency.

#### HONORING DARIN JOHNS

#### HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the family of Darin Johns, who was tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Darin Johns was the beloved band director for Andrews High School. In the weeks since the accident, we have seen an outpouring of testimonies about Mr. Johns from former students, friends, colleagues, and other band directors across the entire state of Texas.

As I learn more about the life that Mr. Johns led, I am continually encouraged by the quality of service that he gave to his community and the quantity of people whose lives he touched.

Mr. Johns was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith, loved his wife Karen and family and friends deeply, and invested in his natural talent and deep love of music. He was a gifted musician who could play almost any instrument he touched. In his free time, he played in a Christian band and directed the church praise band as an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johns' deepest passion was encouraging the younger generations. For over 30 years, he taught others to love music as a high school band director. Over his impressive tenure, Mr. Johns led three different high school marching bands to the State Marching Contest. He lent all his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

Andrews ISD and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of Mr. Johns.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews and Mr. Johns' family.